What to do if you are NOT Prepared!

Mitch Gill

NA7US ex K7TUT YI9TU

Who Am I?

- Amateur Extra. First licensed 1970
- USAF 1976-1987 HF Communications
  - In Charge of all comm for Return of 52 hostages from Iran
  - European MARS Director 1980-1983
- 16 Years civilian in High Tech Marketing
- Army National Guard 2003 – Present
  - Deployed New Orleans, Baton Rouge for Hurricane Katrina and Rita
  - Volunteered for tour in Iraq (Tikrit, Mosul, Samarra, An Nasiriya, Baghdad, Balad)
  - Operated as YI9TU for 3 months off and on with 2100 contacts.
- Presently full time National Guard as Subject Matter Expert (SME) in Communications, Operations and Anti Terrorism NCO.
- Freelance writer (Pop-Com, QRP-arci, K9YA telegraph, Mike and Key, Maple Valley News) and Homeland Security columnist (AUG 2008) for Popular Communications

But First

- A Commercial Break

Who Is Really Prepared?

- Respondents' perceptions of their preparedness for a disaster are much greater than their actual preparedness.
- The biggest barriers to action are the lack of importance that people place on preparedness, lack of time, and lack of information.
- Simply providing preparedness information is not sufficient to change the behavior of most Americans.
- The perception of an imminent threat is probably the greatest factor in motivating people to take action.
- In general, people report trusting experts in a given field, such as doctors and first responders, over elected officials or government administrators.
- Despite low public trust in the media, television is the first choice for crisis

  information; this is problematic for communication in disasters that affect electricity

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Can We Be Prepared?

Procrastination?

I am the biggest…..are you?

What Radio?

- FT 817 in duffle bag

What Radio?

– SGM wanted to know what it was and why I had it?

“You’ll be fightin and won’t have no time to play with no damn radio”

What Radio?

Smart #$** old Sergeant replies….

”With this radio I can listen in on insurgents and terrorist conversations on their cell phones, satphones, CB radios, GMRS, and the entire Iraqi phone switchboard!”

Whats That?

- SGM replies, “Hell, with those capabilities you make sure you stay next to me when we hit Kuwait. I’m transferring you to my unit in Baghdad when we arrive!”

It Ain’t Easy

- Lost him at Ali Alsaleem, Kuwait
  - Heard later he was looking for me!
  - Orders took me to Tikrit with NC Guard and 4 months later I volunteered to go to Tallil near An Nasiriya with MN Guard.

If Not Prepared, What Can We Do?

- Think differently
- Use everything and anything
- Prepare…..just a little

What’s Iraq Like?

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It’s a War Zone in a Desert!

- Lousy ground
- 220 volts on generator power only
- Blackouts, brownout and surges
- Heat – when power goes out rooms rise to over 160 degrees
- Sand as fine as talcum powder
- Very Little material for antennas etc
- And people shooting mortars and rockets!

Safety First!

Tools to Use

- PVC Pipe for mast
- Electrical Tape
- Fishing pole with line
- No 50 Ohm coax? No Balun? What Freq for the antenna?
- Car battery
- What else….your thoughts???

NVIS Antenna

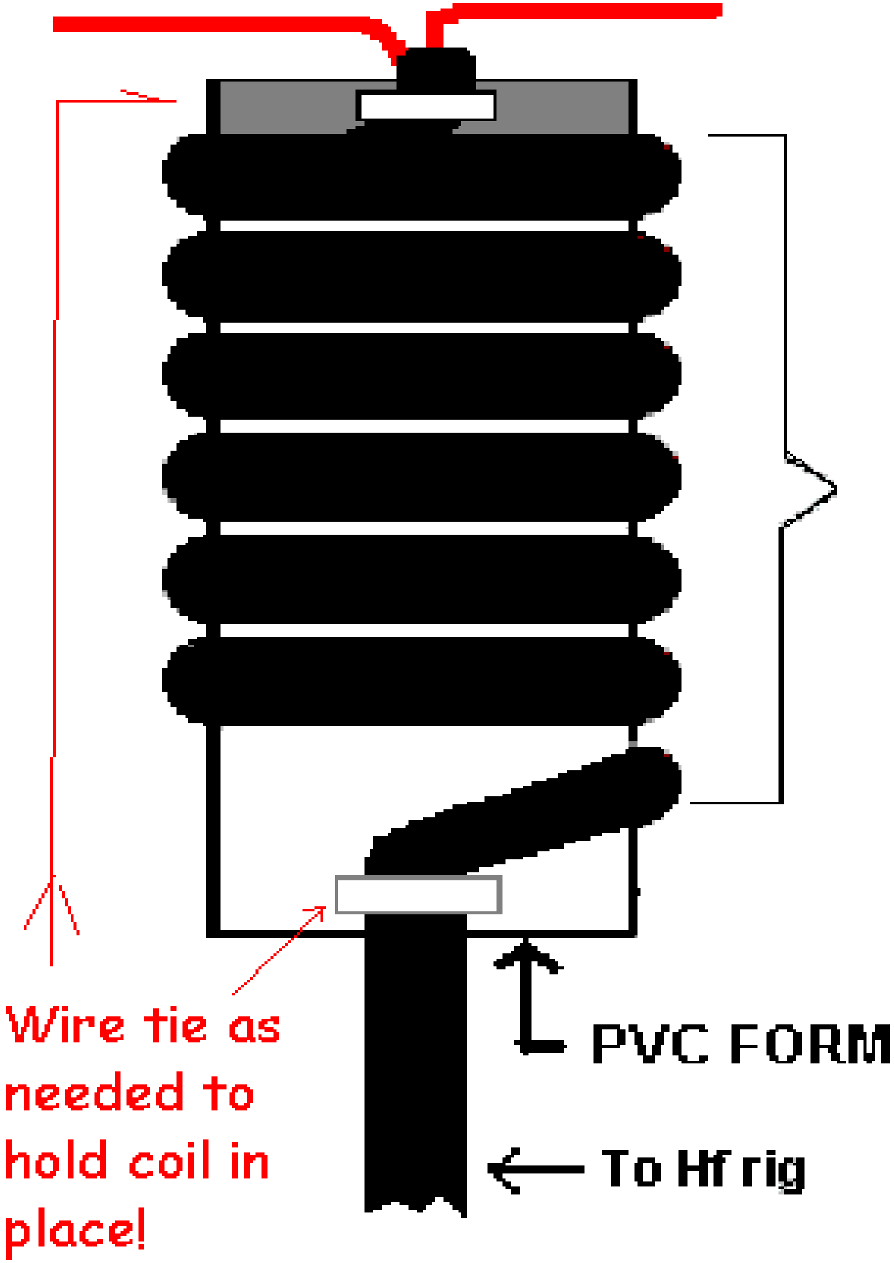
Ugly Balun

50 or 75 ohm Coax

6 inches to 12 feet above ground

Cut for 3985 mhz

468/3.985 = 117.44 feet…….use any wire you can find and splice it if you have to!



This is the basic construction drawing for the 1:1 Choke Balun for 160 thru 10 meters using one continous length to the rig starting at the antenna attachment points. Depending on your use, coax connectors can be added or other connectors can be made for different types of antennas. Balun should be located AT the feed point of the antenna or very close. Drawing is not to scale and is only showing one method of winding the coax on a PVC form. The important part of the drawing is the 18 to 21 feet of coax close wound on the form. The number of coils is not important....just the length! Don't wind your coax tight enough to crush the internal insulation.

N4UJW

What Did I Learn in Iraq

- **Adapt**
- **Used "borrowed" tent poles for mast**
- **Took pulley from curtain, clothes hanger and used parachute cord to get antenna up**
- **Used 75 ohm coax for antenna…no PL259**
- **Made 400 contacts prior to receiving equipment in mail**
- **Ground was a steel cable tying all the metal CHU's together**

Look Around

- No matter where you are, you can find things that can be used
- Just remember that QRP is best. Less power consumption and people will be listening!

Final Pictures

- Now for some pictures of my time in Iraq